CONTENT ADDRESSABLE MEMORY HAVING DYNAMIC MATCH RESOLUTION

Cross-reference to related application

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part, and claims benefit under 35 USC §120, of co-pending and commonly owned, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/112,630 filed March 29, 2002 (now Patent No. 6,661,686) and entitled "Content Addressable Memory Having Dynamic Match Resolution," which is incorporated by reference herein.

Field of Invention

[0002] The field of invention relates generally to the semiconductor arts; and, more specifically, to a method and apparatus for a content addressable memory (CAM) having dynamic match resolution.

Background

[0003] Content addressable memories (CAMs) can be used within a wealth of different electronic systems (e.g., computing systems such as laptop computers, personal computers (PCs), servers, etc.; networking systems such as routers, switches, base stations, etc.; etc.,). Often, a CAM is used to perform a "look-up" function. For example, in networking applications, a portion of the header information of a packet is often used as a search key or comparand to look-up or identify an entry in the CAM. The address at which the matching entry is located in the CAM can then be used to address or index a location in associated memory where attributes as to how the packet is to be